Name of district.	Date of expiry of the term of the Committee.
6. Coimbatore—	
Erode Circle Committee	5— 5—31
Coimbatore Circle Committee	18— 8—31
7. Cuddapah	12— 3—30
8. Ganjam	1—10—30
9. East Godavari	16— 9—30
10. West Godavari	13— 8—30
11. Guntur	8—10—30
12. Kistna	18— 2—31
13. Kurnool	14—10—30
14. * Madura—	
Palni Circle Committee	30— 6—29
Madura Circle Committee	20— 8—29
Periyakulam Circle Committee ...	20— 8—29
15. Nellore	2— 9—30
16. Nilgiris	19— 5—31
17. Ramnad	25— 2—31
18. Salem—	
Salem Circle Committee	15— 4—30
Tiruchengodu Circle Committee ...	29— 4—30
Dharmapuri Circle Committee	15— 4—30
19. South Kanara	7— 5—31
20. Trichinopoly—	
Trichinopoly Circle Committee ...	25— 3—31
Turaiyur Circle Committee	25— 3—31
Ariyalur Circle Committee	25— 3—31
21. Vizagapatam	12— 8—30
22. Malabar (no committee has been constituted for this district until now).	

TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS

APPENDIX VI.

[Vide answer to question No. 42 asked by Diwan Bahadur M. Gopalaswami Mudaliyar at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 2nd August 1932, page 44 supra.]

Press Communiqué of the Government of Madras, Revenue Department, dated Stonehouse Hill, the 29th June 1932.

In December last, the Collector of Bellary reported that, owing to lack of rain in Bellary taluk, a failure of crops was apprehended and that in many villages labourers were migrating in search of employment.

* The Madura Sri Minakshi Sundareswarar Devasthanam and its allied institutions are under the jurisdiction of a separate temple committee which is functioning.

The Collector recommended that road works should be started to provide employment for unskilled labour; and the Government sanctioned a grant of Rs. 20,000 for the formation of a road from Kurugodu to Emmiganur. Subsequently it was found that similar conditions prevailed in parts of Siruguppa, Alur, Rayadrug and Hospet taluks, and nine other road works and thirteen water-supply works were started. The Government made grants to the District Board, Bellary, and Taluk Board, Adoni, covering almost the whole estimated cost of the works. The special grants sanctioned by the Government amounted to Rs. 1,80,000.

2. The kist season had meanwhile begun. Arrears of land revenue of three previous faslis (1338—1340) were outstanding in many villages of Bellary, Siruguppa, Alur and Rayadrug taluks, the collection having been postponed owing to unfavourable seasons in those years. It was clear that concessions would be necessary again this fasli. The local officers carefully inspected the areas affected, and the Government accepted the recommendations of the Collector and Board of Revenue for the remission or further postponement of the arrears, and also for the remission or postponement of a great part of the demand of the current fasli. The amount remitted outright in these areas is nearly 4½ lakhs of rupees, and the amount, the collection of which has been suspended till next year, is more than Rs. 2½ lakhs.

3. In addition to these reliefs, the Government decided to postpone the collection in the area affected of instalments of loans granted under the Loans Acts which were due in the current fasli. The amount of these dues is nearly 4¼ lakhs of rupees. In 1930 the loans granted in many villages of the district were treated as having been made free of interest and the interest previously collected was credited towards the principal. Proposals for extending this concession to five additional villages are under consideration.

4. Towards the end of April, proposals for starting new works to provide employment for unskilled labourers were being received. The Government, having regard to the large sums already spent for the purpose out of general revenues, and the sacrifice of a great part of the amounts payable by the ryots as land revenue and repayment of loans, considered that before further expenditure was sanctioned, the report contemplated by section 46 (*a*) of the Famine Code should be obtained on the economic condition of the tract affected, and the probable intensity and duration of distress. The Government, on considering that report and obtaining information as to the system of work, the tasks imposed, and the wages paid on the works which were being carried out by the local boards from the special grants sanctioned by the Government, found that the tasks were lighter and the wages higher than those laid down in the Famine Code for relief works. They therefore decided that the expenditure from Government revenues of further sums which might run into lakhs of rupees on works devised for the prevention of distress could not be justified unless proofs were forthcoming that the conditions prevailing were such as to warrant a declaration that relief should

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be administered in the manner prescribed in the Famine Code. The procedure laid down for ascertaining the existence of such conditions is the opening of "test works"—i.e., works run in a manner calculated to test whether a considerable number of persons would be willing to work for a bare subsistence. Accordingly five works were selected as "test works." These were opened under the administration of the Collector at the beginning of June: two more test works have since been sanctioned. The remaining local board works were shut down until the result of the test should be ascertained. The wages to be paid on these test works were those laid down in the Famine Code, with the addition of 25 per cent which was specially sanctioned because the fall in the price of condiments had not been so great as that in the price of grain. By the grant of a permanent advance the Collector was provided with unlimited funds for the purpose of running the works. The District Board Engineer was relieved of other duties and placed in charge of the works, and a special staff was sanctioned for supervising the payments.

5. In the "test" stage of famine operations, gratuitous relief may not be given to the dependants of workers. As regards others, the Government considered the question whether, along with the opening of the test works, it was necessary to make provision for the distribution of gratuitous relief in the form of food or money to destitute persons incapable of work. The Collector and the Settlement Commissioner agreed in reporting that the physical condition of the people was good, and that emaciation was not observed: and the Government therefore decided that no gratuitous relief need for the present be distributed. The Collector has, however, been informed that if he considers it necessary to adopt any such measures he may report the facts for the orders of the Government.

6. The number of persons employed by the local boards on the works under their charge had in May risen to nearly 20,000. When test-works were introduced the number fell, but rose later and on June 24th stood at over 14,000. It is ordinarily contemplated that test-works shall remain open only for a few weeks: but the Government have been unable to decide on the need for relief-works as soon as they had hoped, because it was found that the wages payable on the test-works were being supplemented in an unauthorized manner. They have therefore been compelled to continue the test, with conditions strictly limited to those which had been ordered; and the present position is that they are observing the result in order to decide at the earliest possible moment whether relief-works should be opened.

J. A. THORNE,
Secretary to Government